

**To:** Edsitty, Charliss[cedsitty@12NEWS.COM]  
**From:** Daguillard, Robert  
**Sent:** Thur 8/20/2015 8:28:56 PM  
**Subject:** RE: NBC Phoenix -- questions

There you go. Please attribute to US EPA.

Thanks, R.

" Navajo Water Tank – STATEMENT

The U.S. EPA will work closely with Navajo Nation authorities to investigate a recent complaint about water contamination in one tank provided by U.S. EPA for agricultural purposes in the Shiprock, New Mexico area. Aside from this complaint, EPA has received no other complaints about tank water contamination.

Following the Gold King Mine release, an EPA contractor has been providing storage and delivery of agricultural water in Shiprock and other parts of the Navajo Nation. EPA did not administer distribution of water from the tanks.

Specifically, thirteen tanks were deployed to provide watering service within the Navajo Nation following the Gold King Mine release, which impacted the San Juan River. Nine of these tanks were deployed in the Shiprock area. These tanks were sourced from the water division of Triple S Trucking Company, an Aztec, N.M.-based tanker truck company. According to the contractor, the tanks were steam cleaned and inspected prior to use at Shiprock. Water distributed by Triple S tanks, under contract to EPA, was provided by the Bloomfield Utility Department, the municipal water utility company for the City of Bloomfield, N.M.

Based on EPA surface water data collected following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine release, San Juan River water quality in the Navajo Nation has returned to pre-event conditions. This determination is based on a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA's sampling point near Hogback, N.M. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had a productive phone conversation on August 19 to review water quality data. Based on that conversation the President indicated that the Navajo Nation may re-open the San Juan River for irrigation purposes as soon as this weekend. It was also agreed on that call, that Friday August 21, would be the last day for EPA water deliveries for agricultural use on the Navajo Nation.

EPA will continue to work with the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River is implemented. In addition, EPA is positioned to provide technical assistance in flushing irrigation ditches on the Navajo Nation."

-----Original Message-----

From: Edsitty, Charliss [mailto:cedsitty@12NEWS.COM]  
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 4:08 PM  
To: Daguillard, Robert  
Cc: Press  
Subject: Re: NBC Phoenix -- questions

Ok I totally understand. Thank you!

I just want to make sure the piece is as fair and balanced as possible and would really like something from the EPA so you all have a chance to explain or clarify anything.

Thanks again! I appreciate your help.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 20, 2015, at 1:05 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:  
>

> Hey Charly,  
>  
> I just asked. We're definitely working on a statement, but can't promise we'll meet your deadline quite yet. We'll keep you posted no matter what.  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Edsitty, Charliss [mailto:cedsitty@12NEWS.COM]  
> Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 4:03 PM  
> To: Daguillard, Robert  
> Cc: Press  
> Subject: RE: NBC Phoenix -- questions  
>  
> Hi there,  
>  
> I'm just checking in -- anything I can use for my story yet?  
>  
> Thanks!  
>  
> Charly  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Daguillard, Robert [mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]  
> Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 6:18 AM  
> To: Edsitty, Charliss <cedsitty@12NEWS.COM>  
> Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>  
> Subject: RE: NBC Phoenix -- questions  
>  
> Got it. Thanks.  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Edsitty, Charliss [mailto:cedsitty@12NEWS.COM]  
> Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:15 AM  
> To: Daguillard, Robert  
> Cc: Press  
> Subject: Re: NBC Phoenix -- questions  
>  
> Thank you!  
>  
> Script deadline is 3:30 pm (Phoenix time) and story will air at either 5 or 6pm tonight.  
>  
> Much appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
>  
> Charly Edsitty  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone  
>  
>> On Aug 20, 2015, at 5:44 AM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:  
>>  
>> Good morning.  
>>  
>> We're on it, thanks. What's your deadline?  
>>  
>> Best, R.  
>>  
>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: Edsitty, Charliss [mailto:cedsitty@12NEWS.COM]

>> Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:28 AM  
>> To: Press  
>> Subject: NBC Phoenix -- questions  
>>  
>> Hi there,  
>>  
>> I'm a reporter with NBC out of Phoenix and travelled to Shiprock, N.M. today to check out a water tank managed by the EPA that was said to be contaminated with an oil-like residue.  
>>  
>> While at this water tank, a Navajo official stuck her hand up a pipe she said is used to pump water into the tank and it came out covered with black residue.  
>>  
>> This Navajo official as well as local farmers claim the tank is unclean and is holding contaminated water that was promised to be suitable for agricultural use by the EPA.  
>>  
>> Does the EPA have a statement on this?  
>>  
>> What background checks did the EPA perform on the contracted company?  
>>  
>> Were any inspections performed by the EPA to ensure the water quality?  
>>  
>> What is the EPA doing to correct the situation?  
>>  
>> Thank you!  
>>  
>> Sent from my iPhone